

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

FOR AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

1972

REPORT



Symbol of Quality

79 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10016

(212) 683-8581

The Proof of the Pudding

by Peter J. Salmon, President

Six years ago I said to a friend: "NAC is probably the most outstanding development in the field of work for the blind in the past 50 years." Today, more than ever, I know this to be true.

I have been associated with NAC from its very beginning. Events of which I had personal knowledge demonstrated that accreditation does raise standards of service for blind people. But since I became NAC's president in 1972 still more events throughout the country have confirmed my statement.

The first comprehensive assessment of the impact of NAC was presented in the fall of 1972. It is described elsewhere in this report. I'd just like to say that it provides detailed objective evidence that agencies of many sizes in widely varying communities do improve their services when they are working to qualify for NAC accreditation.

Nineteen seventy-two was also a year in which many accredited agencies wrote to government officials and others about what accreditation had meant to

them. Because these agencies look at the accreditation process from many different points of view their comments shed light on several aspects of NAC's work. Some are on this page.

It seems clear from all this testimony that more blind people will benefit as more agencies qualify for accreditation—and as the accredited agencies make further improvements in order to remain accredited.

In NAC's work we seek the cooperation of every concerned person and organization—not only the blind and visually handicapped and the agencies that serve them, but also the citizens who support these services.

When everyone has a better understanding of what our blind fellow citizens can accomplish, everyone will insist that blind people should have access to services of proven quality—services that will enable the blind to utilize their abilities to the fullest.

To bring this about NAC welcomes your participation and support.



I am particularly pleased with the fact that, while there is often a temptation in a new effort to gain numbers of agencies within the fold, NAC has not taken this course. As far as I can perceive, it has continued to accredit carefully, conscientiously . . . to assure that accreditation has a meaning and prestige which it must have in order to be effective.

DR. GERALD R. WAITS
President
Massachusetts Association for
the Blind

Because of NAC, blind people have a more promising future and more opportunity to be treated as first-class citizens instead of "charity patients."

MILTON A. JAHODA
Executive Director
Cincinnati Association for the Blind

Board, staff and consumers all participated in the self-study, and it was a process of enlightenment to all. Some necessary changes were accomplished immediately; others of necessity require both short and long range planning.

MRS. MARCELLA C. GOLDBERG
Executive Director
Pittsburgh Branch, Pennsylvania
Association for the Blind



I can speak in . . . a positive way about the importance of the service that the National Accreditation Council is rendering because the Rhode Island Association for the Blind has had the benefit of going through the process and seeing the growth and improved programs that have resulted.

MRS. HELEN W. WORDEN
Executive Director
Rhode Island Association for the Blind

The procedures of the National Accreditation Council brought to the Perkins campus a team of experienced appraisers and consultants who were in a position to ask us discerning questions and to cause us to think even more carefully about our program and its effectiveness.

BENJAMIN SMITH
Director
Perkins School for the Blind

We have recently participated in the accreditation process as applied to the local "Lighthouse" and were indeed impressed both by the scope of the inquiry and the broad community participation that it involved.

NICHOLAS H. REZAK
Associate Executive Director
The United Way of Central New York



Summary of Financial Activities

Year Ended December 31, 1972

Support and Revenue:

Contributions received directly	\$114,202.90
Indirect public support	<u>1,800.00</u>
Total public support	\$116,002.90
Grants from government agencies	109,500.00
Other revenue	<u>33,322.69</u>
Total public support and revenue	\$258,825.59
Less: Support and grants limited by donors or grantors	<u>9,500.00</u>
Support and revenue available to finance current general activities	\$249,325.59

*Includes sales and interest income.

Expenditures:

Program services—	
a) Accreditation	\$ 86,748.39
b) Standards	59,547.42
Total	<u>\$146,295.81</u>
Management and general	66,770.26
Fund raising	31,227.70
Total expenditures	<u>\$244,293.77</u>
Deduction of expenditures financed by special funds:	
Current restricted funds	<u>15,570.95</u>
Expenditures financed by current general revenue	228,722.82
Excess of current general revenue over expenditures	\$ 20,602.77
Deduction of appropriations by Board:	
To funds functioning as endowment*	12,493.17
Increase in unappropriated general fund	<u>\$ 8,109.60</u>

Balance Sheets

December 31, 1972

Current Funds — Assets

General Fund:

Cash in banks	\$31,655.88
Miscellaneous receivable	<u>168.00</u>
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 31,823.88</u>

Restricted Fund:

Cash in Bank	<u>\$ 336.00</u>
Total Restricted Fund	<u>\$ 336.00</u>

Funds Functioning as Endowment:

Cash in banks	\$94,214.32
Investment—marketable securities	14,250.00*
Accrued interest receivable	<u>525.00</u>
Total Funds Functioning as Endowment	<u>\$108,989.32</u>

*At market value at time of receipt (current market value \$14,625).

Current Funds — Liabilities and Fund Balances

General Fund:

Employees' withholdings	\$ 1,920.57
Unliquidated obligations	1,373.97

Fund Balance:

Unappropriated—	
Balance—January 1, 1972	\$20,419.74
Increase during year	<u>8,109.60</u>
Balance—December 31, 1972	28,529.34
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 31,823.88</u>

Restricted Fund:

Fund balance—December 31, 1972	<u>\$ 336.00</u>
Total Restricted Fund	<u>\$ 336.00</u>

Funds Functioning as Endowment:

Fund Balance—	
Balance—January 1, 1972	\$96,496.15
Increase during year—	
Sales	\$5,748.10
Interest	<u>6,745.07</u>
Balance—December 31, 1972	12,493.17
Total Funds Functioning as Endowment	<u>\$108,989.32</u>

OPINION

We have examined the accompanying Balance Sheets as at December 31, 1972 and related Summary of Financial Activities, Statement of Changes in Current Restricted Fund Balances and Analysis of Functional Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 1972. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying Balance Sheets and related Summary of Financial Activities, Statement of Changes in Current Restricted Fund Balances and Analysis of Functional Expenditures present fairly the financial position of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc. at December 31, 1972 and its income, expenditures and additions to fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.

S. P. Cooper & Company, Certified Public Accountants

New York, N.Y., February 11, 1973

Analysis of Functional Expenditures

Year Ended December 31, 1972

	Total	Program Services		Supporting Services	
		Accreditation	Standards	Management and General	Fund Raising—General
Salaries	\$154,172.92	\$34,477.02	\$53,178.46	\$41,220.22	\$25,297.22
Employee health and retirement benefits	17,116.66	3,827.28	5,903.54	4,576.99	2,808.85
Payroll taxes	7,467.73	1,669.79	2,575.62	1,996.87	1,225.45
Total Employee Compensation	\$178,757.31	\$39,974.09	\$61,657.62	\$47,794.08	\$29,331.52
Professional fees and contract service payments	3,544.82	—	1,568.07	1,976.75	—
Supplies	2,961.34	1,443.70	1,009.02	390.50	118.12
Telephone and telegraph	4,213.26	2,063.65	1,424.56	556.05	169.00
Postage and shipping	2,999.14	1,021.29	1,728.90	229.23	19.72
Occupancy	19,872.05	9,934.53	7,550.25	1,589.98	797.29
Outside printing, art work, etc.	8,187.34	1,820.56	5,195.85	1,001.01	169.92
Conferences, conventions, meetings and travel	20,203.08	3,054.84	5,813.30	11,131.78	203.16
Subscriptions and reference publications	364.01	20.40	102.11	77.25	164.25
Membership dues	490.00	12.50	257.50	220.00	—
Equipment and other fixed assets	1,693.28	—	—	1,693.28	—
Miscellaneous	1,008.14	201.86	441.21	110.35	254.72
Total	\$244,293.77	\$59,547.42	\$86,748.39	\$66,770.26	\$31,227.70

The Purpose of the National Accreditation Council

To improve services for blind and visually handicapped people by developing standards for agencies and schools for the blind and visually handicapped and units specializing in services for the blind and visually handicapped in other organizations; to assist such organiza-

tions to utilize, adopt and implement the standards through a national system of accreditation which gives public recognition to organizations that are in substantial compliance with the standards.

Suggested Form of Bequest

I give and bequeath to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) to be used by the Council's Board of Directors as deemed advisable within the corporate powers of such Council.

Suggested Form of Gift

I hereby give to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) to be used for the general purpose of the Council at the direction of its Board of Directors.

Better Services For Thousands

During 1972 the number of persons served by accredited agencies and schools rose to more than 140,000. This figure includes 78,000 who received prevention of blindness services as well as 63,000 blind and visually handicapped men, women and children.

There are now 47 accredited organizations. Including the 23 branches of the first national multi-unit organization to be accredited, they are found in 34 states and the District of Columbia. They embrace 129 separate installations in about 100 communities. They include rehabilitation centers, clinics, residences for men and women, camps, sheltered workshops, libraries, publishing facilities, elementary and secondary schools.

The multi-unit organization, referred to above was also the first agency exclusively devoted to production of reading materials to qualify under NAC's new standards for such production. Developed and disseminated in a project supported by the U.S. Office of Education, the standards were successfully tested in reviews of six agencies in 1972.

NAC's long range plan, adopted in June, 1972, gives top priority to helping more agencies utilize the self-study to improve operations and thereby qualify for accreditation. Of 250 agencies that have ordered materials, 54 have notified NAC that they have self-studies in process.

Assessing NAC's Impact

In 1972 NAC analyzed reports of the first 32 agencies to complete self-studies. The survey revealed that they had made or were in process of making 557 changes in function and structure, personnel administration, and social services (the three elements covered in the analysis).

It should be noted that some agencies complete self-studies and are visited by a NAC team but have accreditation deferred until they have made specific improvements; others receive two-year rather than five-

year accreditation. Regardless of whether accreditation is deferred, two-year, or full, all evidence indicates that the self-study process does bring about desirable—and continuing—changes in the quality of services.

In its annual review of each accredited agency, NAC points out where opportunities for improvement remain, especially the need for planned follow-up of people who have been served, to see how helpful the services have been in the long run.

Outreach

NCSAB sponsors . . . The National Council of State Agencies for the Blind joined the roster of NAC Sponsors in 1972.

CSAVR adopts . . . The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation adopted, as part of policy and standard operating procedures, a plan calling for all rehabilitation facilities providing services to clients of State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies to qualify for accreditation no later than June 30, 1976 or by the end of the fourth year following the establishment of the agency.

AEVH cooperates . . . In connection with the biennial conference of the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped, NAC held a seminar workshop on the application of NAC standards to problems and methods of handling confidential records. Nearly 100 educators, administrators and parents took part. Findings comprise a special supplement to the February,

1973, New Outlook, published by the American Foundation for the Blind.

AAWB, IARF, LIBT invite . . . Meetings of the Western Region of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the International Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and Lighthouse Industries for the Blind of Texas invited NAC to present information on the accreditation process and how to use it.

BBB requests . . . The Council of Better Business Bureaus, after a review of NAC's work, requested that NAC materials be sent regularly to its one hundred-thirty-two affiliated bureaus in the U.S.

NAC awards . . . Dr. Berthold Lowenfeld, distinguished educator, received the 1972 Award for his leadership in stimulating and developing higher standards of service to the blind, especially in the production and availability of reading materials.

Officers and Directors — 1972-73

ARTHUR L. BRANDON
Lewisburg, Pa.
President Emeritus

PETER J. SALMON
Brooklyn, N.Y.
President

DANIEL D. ROBINSON
New York, N.Y.
Vice President

J. KENNETH COZIER
Cleveland, Ohio
Vice President

FREDERICK G. STOREY
Atlanta, Ga.
Vice President

MRS. ADELE D. CAMPBELL
Carlisle, Mass.
Secretary

MRS. CLAIRE W. CARLSON
New York, N.Y.
Treasurer

M. ROBERT BARNETT
New York, N.Y.

JACK W. BIRCH
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ARTHUR L. BRANDON
Lewisburg, Pa.

ROBERT M. BUCKLEY
Des Moines, Iowa

JOHN W. FERREE, M.D.
Pleasantville, N.Y.

DONALD W. FLYNN*
Providence, R.I.

MELVIN A. GLASSER
Detroit, Mich.

ROBERT C. GOODPASTURE
Castleton, Vt.

HUNTINGTON HARRIS
Leesburg, Va.

JAMES G. HAUGHTON, M.D.
Chicago, Ill.

RICHARD E. HOOVER, M.D.
Baltimore, Md.

JOSEPH JAWORSKI
Houston, Texas

NORMAN V. LOURIE
Harrisburg, Pa.

*Deceased January 8, 1973

DOUGLAS C. MACFARLAND
Washington, D.C.

JOHN R. MAY
San Francisco, Calif.

RICHARD H. MIGEL
Montec, N.Y.

EWALD B. NYQUIST
Albany, N.Y.

MORTON PEPPER
New York, N.Y.

HON. REESE H. ROBRINN
Topeka, Kans.

GERALDINE T. SCHOLL
Ann Arbor, Mich.

HENRY A. TALBERT
Los Angeles, Calif.

WARREN THOMPSON
Denver, Colo.

McALLISTER C. UPshaw
Detroit, Mich.

J. M. WOOLLY
Little Rock, Ark.

Commission on Accreditation

JACK W. BIRCH, Associate Dean
University of Pittsburgh School of Education
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Chairman

WESLEY D. SPRAGUE, Executive Director
The New York Association for the Blind
New York, N.Y.
Vice-Chairman

NATALIE C. BARRAGA
Professor, Department of Special Education
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

ROBERT C. GOODPASTURE
Castleton, Vt.

JOSEPH KOHN, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission for the Blind
Newark, N.J.

DOUGLAS C. MACFARLAND, Director
Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
Rehabilitation Services Administration, DHEW
Washington, D.C.

HAROLD G. ROBERTS, Associate Director for Service
American Foundation for the Blind
New York, N.Y.

FREDERICK A. SILVER, Administrator
St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center
Newton, Mass.

Commission on Standards

J. M. WOOLLY, Superintendent
Arkansas School for the Blind
Little Rock, Ark.
Chairman

WILLIAM T. COPPAGI, Director
Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped
Richmond, Va.
Vice-Chairman

OWEN R. DAVISON, Consultant to Funds and Councils
Community Services of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pa.

CLEO B. DOLAN, Executive Director
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
Cleveland, Ohio

DURWARD K. McDANIEL
National Representative
American Council of the Blind
Washington, D.C.

MRS. GERALDINE ROUGAGNAC
Executive Director
Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston
Houston, Texas

GERALDINE T. SCHOLL
Professor of Special Education
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

MRS. ELLEN W. WORDEN
Executive Director
Rhode Island Association for the Blind
Providence, R.I.

Alexander F. Handel
Executive Director

William Gold, Esq.
Counsel

National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped

79 Madison Avenue, Suite 1406

New York, New York 10016



Contributions to the National Accreditation Council are tax deductible.

Printed in USA

3/73